

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 DOE-15 SOE-02
ACDA-12 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 STR-07 /143 W
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R 040525Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5754
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, NO, IS
SUBJ: DAYAN VISIT TO OSLO, MAY 9-10

1. ISRAELI FONMIN MOSHE DAYAN WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORWAY MAY 9-10, ACCORDING TO AN MFA ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 26. THE VISIT IS IN RETURN FOR NORWEGIAN FONMIN KNUT FRYDENLUND'S VISIT TO ISRAEL IN 1975. DAYAN WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE.

2. STEIN OERNHOEI, ONE OF TWO LEFT SOCIALIST (SV) DEPUTIES IN THE STORTING, CRITICIZED THE DAYAN VISIT, AND ASKED THE FONMIN IN THE STORTING IF THERE WAS ANY SENSIBLE REASON FOR

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NORWAY TO INVITE DAYAN HERE FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT A FEW WEEKS AFTER ISRAEL'S QUOTE INVASION OF LEBANON UNQUOTE. THE FONMIN IN REPLY SAID THAT OERNHOEI'S VIEWS WERE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE HELD BY THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE OR MEMBERS OF THE STORTING. FRYDENLUND ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED TO HAVE USEFUL TALKS WITH DAYAN ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS.

3. THE SOUTH LEBANON ISSUE FOR THE MOST PART IS PLAYED LOW KEY HERE. IN VIEW OF NORWAY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIFIL, THE GON PLAYS THE NEUTRAL ROLE CAREFULLY, AND MEDIA COMMENT IS ALSO RESTRAINED. IN VIEW OF RECENT ATTACKS ON UNIFIL POSITIONS, HOWEVER, PM NORDLI WAS PUSHED TO REMARK IN A SPEECH APRIL 26 THAT THE CONDITION FOR SENDING NORWEGIAN TROOPS TO LEBANON WAS THAT ALL PARTIES RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE, AND THAT ALL SIDES SHOW RESTRAINT AND MODERATION, AND A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE.

4. UNIFIL AND SOUTH LEBANON ARE NOT EXPECTED TO FIGURE SO PROMINENTLY IN DAYAN'S MEETINGS WITH FONMIN FRYDENLUND AS WILL DISCUSSION OF THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ACCORDING TO BJORN UTHEIM, DIRECTOR, MFA'S UN DIVISION, WHO WILL SERVE AS DAYAN'S ESCORT. THE NORWEGIANS WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM DAYAN ABOUT PM BEGIN'S TALKS IN THE US. ONE WORKING SESSION AT THE MFA WILL BE DEVOTED TO NORWEGIAN-ISRAELI BILATERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING TRADE AND CULTURAL MATTERS, UTHEIM SAID.

5. DURING HIS FIRST DAY, DAYAN WILL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER NORDLI. HE WILL ALSO VISIT THE STORTING (NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT), WHERE HE WILL PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE STORTING'S PRESIDENT GUTTORM HANSEN, AND MEET WITH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THE STORTING'S UNOFFICIAL BUT SIZEABLE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL COMMITTEE. AN EARLIER SCHEDULED MEETING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN HAS BEEN CANCELED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ISRAELIS.

6. IN THE EVENING OF MAY 10, AFTER THE OFFICIAL PORTION OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, DAYAN WILL TAKE PART IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES AT OSLO'S SYNAGOGUE MARKING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AFTER WHICH HE WILL ADDRESS A RALLY OF NORWAY'S LET ISRAEL LIVE MOVEMENT IN DOWNTOWN OSLO.

7. COMMENT: THERE ARE NO BIG ISSUES TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE NORWEGIANS AND THE ISRAELIS DURING DAYAN'S VISIT WHICH OFFICIALLY IS TAKING PLACE IN RETURN FOR FONMIN FRYDENLUND'S VISIT TO ISRAEL TWO YEARS AGO. WHILE THERE ARE MANY STRONG AND OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTERS OF BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS IN NORWAY, MIDDLE EAST ISSUES ARE HANDLED EVENHANDEDLY AND WITH RESTRAINT BY BOTH THE GON AND THE PRESS. DAYAN WILL GET A FRIENDLY RECEPTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AND WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND RELATED ISSUES WITH GON IN A CALM ATMOSPHERE. THE VISIT ALSO WILL SERVE UNDOUBTEDLY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ISRAEL TO FORTIFY THE CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL AMONG A SIGNIFICANT SECTION OF THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE FOR THE ISRAELI CAUSE.

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